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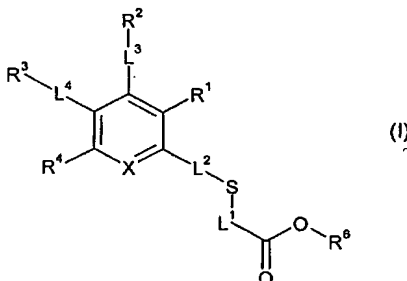


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(57) Abstract: This invention relates to compounds of formula (I) which are glyoxalase I inhibitors, pharmaceutical salts or compositions comprising such compounds, and the use of such compositions and compounds to treat various conditions alleviated by the inhibition of glyoxalase I. Wherein X is N or CH. R² is H, CF₃, or optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl. R³ is H; or optionally substituted C₅₋₆ aryl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl. Alternatively R² and R³ together form an optionally substituted C₃₋₄alkylene group wherein L³ and L⁴ are single bonds thus forming a C₅₋₆ ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L³ and L⁴ are attached. L³ and L⁴ are independently selected from a single bond, optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene, -L⁹YN(OH)C(=O)L¹⁰, and -L⁹C(=O)N(OH)YL¹⁰, wherein L⁹ and L¹⁰ are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkylene, C₅₋₆ arylene, C₁₋₄ alkylene-C₅₋₆arylene and a single bond, wherein Y is NH or a single bond.